

Gap between rich and poor

†196. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of income between the topmost one per cent of highest income group and lowermost one per cent of minimum income group of the population in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that this income gap between the rich and the poor has widened in the country;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Data on income distribution in the country is not collected by official agencies. Therefore, no estimate can be made of the ratio of income between the topmost one percent of highest income group and lowermost one per cent of minimum income group of the population in the country.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Improvement of roads in Orissa

197. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has approved ten road improvement works under the Central Road Fund at a cost of Rs. 58.29 crores in Orissa State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of widening and strengthening of existing single-lane carriage way to intermediate-lane carriage way with improvement of riding quality of Sambalpur-Sonepur Road (NH-15) and the time-frame within which it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.